

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 SSM-05 ISO-00 PA-02
H-02 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 PM-05 PCH-02 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----019460 092312Z /61

O 092156Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 9

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 9, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS T. RESTON.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE PROSPECTS ARE THAT EITHER THE
SECRETARY OF STATE OR MR. ATHERTON WILL BE GOING BACK TO
BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO LAY THE GROUND FOR THE CAMP
DAVID SUMMIT?
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A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THE TRAVEL PLANS OF MR. VANCE, SAVE
TO SAY THAT HE WILL BE ARRIVING HERE THIS EVENING ABOUT
6:10.

AS TO THE TRAVEL PLANS OF OTHERS, AMBASSADOR ATHERTON
ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA AT TAIF TODAY, AUGUST 9. HE IS
SCHEDULED TO FLY TO AMMAN, JORDAN, AUGUST 11, AND HE WILL
BE LEAVING THERE AUGUST 13 TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

ONE OTHER TRAVELLING MEMBER OF THE PARTY IS A MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, MR. WILLIAM B. QUANDT. HE IS
GOING TO ISRAEL TODAY AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO
WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 11.

THESE TRIPS ARE OBVIOUSLY A FOLLOW-ON TO THE SECRETARY'S
CONSULTATIONS IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND I DON'T HAVE
DETAILS ON WHAT THEY WILL BE DOING. HOWEVER, I WOULD
POINT OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR US TO KEEP
THE SAUDI ARABIAN AND JORDANIAN GOVERNMENTS INFORMED ON
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE OF HELP TO YOU TODAY ON WHAT POSSIBLE PLANS MIGHT BE IN FORMULATION TO GET READY FOR THE CAMP DAVID MEETING. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. COULD YOU DEFINE THE MEANING OF FULL PARTNERSHIP?

A. NO, I CAN'T.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL ON THIS TODAY. THE SECRETARY GETS BACK TODAY. HE WILL BE SEEING THE PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH I DON'T HAVE A TIME FOR YOU ON THAT. HODDING WILL BE HERE TOMORROW, AND HE HAS BEEN ON THE TRIP. PERHAPS HE CAN ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT ON WHAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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GOING ON. I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

Q. WILL HE SEE THE PRESIDENT TONIGHT?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE WILL SEE THE PRESIDENT. I'LL BE GLAD TO CHECK FOR YOU.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON -- THE STATE OF THE FIGHTING; WHO'S INVOLVED; WHO'S SUPPLYING ARMS TO WHOM; WHO YOU ARE URGING TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT?

A. WE DID NOTE A CALL BY MR. ERSKINE ON THE ISRAELIS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT, AND I WOULD SAY THAT IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ISRAEL. I WOULD HAVE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT ON IT.

I WOULD REPEAT WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY: WE HAVE URGED AND ARE CONTINUING TO URGE ALL WHO HAVE A ROLE IN, OR INFLUENCE ON, THE SITUATION TO ACT WITH EXTREME RESTRAINT, TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO SEE THAT THE FIGHTING IS BROUGHT TO AN END, AND TO SEE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HONORED.

ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLY IN LEBANON, I DON'T HAVE VERY MUCH MORE TO ADD THAN WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG. WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE

HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE SUPPLYING ARMS TO THE MARONITE FORCES. WE WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY INTRODUCTION OF NEW ARMS INTO LEBANON, SINCE THIS WOULD WORK AGAINST THE EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY TO DEFUSE WHAT IS A SERIOUS SITUATION. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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QUARTERS WITH ANY INFLUENCE ON THE SITUATION IN LEBANON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICION OR INFORMATION THAT THE ARMS WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY BEING SUPPLIED MIGHT BE AMERICAN IN ORIGIN?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE TRANSFER OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT IS WELL KNOWN. A SHORT TIME AGO, AN ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE GAVE US RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT TRANSFER TO ANY GROUP IN LEBANON, U.S.-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO OUR LAW AND AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL, WHICH PROHIBIT THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR SPECIFIC APPROVAL. AS I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, WE HAVE NO REASON, OR NO EVIDENCE, WHICH WOULD CAUSE US TO DOUBT THESE ASSURANCES. SO THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS NO.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHO THIS REPRESENTATIVE WAS; WHAT LEVEL? WHEN WAS THIS ASSURANCE GIVEN, AND WAS IT SOLICITED BY THE UNITED STATES? AND WHAT FORM WERE THE ASSURANCES IN?

A. I WILL TAKE ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY, "WOULD NOT TRANSFER," IS THAT FUTURE TENSE? HAVE THEY DONE SO IN THE PAST?

A. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE VIOLATED THE ASSURANCES WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN US. I THINK THIS APPLIES TO THE PAST, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE.

Q. OBVIOUSLY FROM THE WAY YOU WORDED THIS STATEMENT, THE ASSURANCES THAT THEY GAVE YOU DID NOT APPLY TO WEAPONS THAT WERE NOT OF U.S.-ORIGIN. IS THAT CORRECT?

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A. THE STATEMENT WHICH I HAVE JUST READ APPLYS TO U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE NO CONTROL LEGALLY OVER WHAT THEY MAY OR MAY NOT DO WITH EQUIPMENT WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO U.S. LAW OR NOT SUBJECT TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.

Q. DID YOU ASK ISRAEL NOT TO SUPPLY ANY ARMS WHATSOEVER

TO THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON?

A. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN THE ISRAELI PRESS STATING THAT THIS SPECIFIC REQUEST WAS MADE.

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q. AMBASSADOR TEUINI IS MEETING AT 6:00 WITH SOMEBODY HERE IN THIS BUILDING. UPON WHOSE REQUEST WAS THE MEETING?

A. I WILL CHECK THAT TO SEE WHETHER HE IS MEETING, AND WHAT IT IS ABOUT.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIANS, SIMILARLY WITH THE ISRAELIS, AND HAVE YOU SAID ANYTHING SPECIFIC TO THEM IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALL PARTIES URGING THEM TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT, AND THAT INCLUDES THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. AND THE PLO?
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A. WE DONT DEAL WITH THE PLO.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER WAS POSTED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING TODAY.

Q. WHO IS AMBASSADOR TUEINI SEEING IN THE DEPARTMENT?

A. AMBASSADOR GHASSAN TUEINI, LEBANON'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, IS CALLING ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES VELIOTES AND DRAPER, THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 9. HE MAY HAVE OTHER MEETINGS BUT THESE ARE NOT YET ARRANGED. AMBASSADOR TUEINI'S CALLS IN THE DEPARTMENT ARE AT HIS REQUEST. VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO ALGIERS.

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